

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.

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THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of all the Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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A Wise Reply.

The President's reply to China's appeal for mediation embraces substantially the conditions anticipated by The Star as inevitable precedents to any agreement to aid the celestial government in rescuing itself from its present dilemma. Its minister and those of the other powers must be extricated from their present peril and placed in communication with their respective governments. In short, China must assist the elementary function of government, that of maintaining relations with the rest of the world, before she can look for assistance from the nations.

The President adroitly avoids placing the United States under suspicion in Europe. He distinctly ranges this country alongside the others whose ministers are now endangered, and he states its desires as coincident with those, as publicly declared. Thus he in no wise interferes with the international program as far as it is outlined, designed to secure the relief of the foreigners now besieged in Peking.

In still another feature of his reply the President endeavors tactfully to reduce to a minimum the chances of friction. He acknowledges the inference from the Chinese emperor's message that the disturbance at Peking has resulted from the activities of malefactors and are not traceable to the imperial government. Yet, in a clear reading of the document, there is no mistaking the strong indictment of the weakness which permitted so serious a state of affairs to arise, leading to the assured death of two foreign envoys and the menacing of all the others and their proteges.

The President pledges no results. He expresses the belief that if China will grant the desired conditions "no obstacles will be found to exist on the part of the powers to an amicable settlement of all the questions arising out of the recent troubles," and the friendly good offices of this government will, "with the assent of the other powers," be cheerfully placed at Kwang-sung's disposal for that purpose.

The President looks first of all to the security of our minister and of the other envoys at Peking. He asks China to assert sufficient national force to restore relations with the powers and to co-operate with the relief expedition now at Tien Tsin. In other words, he demands that China show good faith toward the powers, and he undertakes that the powers will, as far as the offices of the United States can avail, show good faith toward China.

Of course, this discussion is all based upon the assumption that the troubles at Peking have been due to an insurrectionary movement. In that case China is to be saved only from her own domestic enemies, rather than from the powers. The President wisely avoids joining issue as to the responsibility for the conditions at Taku and Tien Tsin. It is clear that he reserves the point that the weakness and the silence of the imperial government precipitated those conditions, which China now claims to be a threat to her integrity.

The prompt publication of this correspondence is in the interest of international harmony and probably of a settlement of the disorders in China. If the government at Peking stands the sincere co-operation of the powers to suppress the insurgents and to restore order, the case calls merely for just such an avowal as this appeal of the United States, and for just such a reply as that sent by President McKinley in order to insure peace without partition.

Upon the answer now sent by China depends her own future. The chance for her preservation is offered and if her hands are clean, her motives honest, she may take it.

To Facilitate Tax-Payments.

There has been no increase in the force of the District assessor's office during the past ten years, in which period the city has grown exceedingly and the county has become practically a part of the city. The work of both this office and of the collector's office has increased to such an extent that it is plainly a matter of impossibility for the present force to handle it in a manner satisfactory either to the taxpayers or to the general public. Complaints of the assessor's records being behind, of the inability of owners of real estate to get information concerning their taxes and of the general insufficiency of the office arrangements have fallen like hail stones on the devoted heads of the Commissioners in the past few years, while the outburst of indignation at the fact that, through the presence of only one cashier in the collector's office, citizens are kept in line for hours twice each year, at the time when it is necessary for tax payers, is always loud and long. This year the District assessor takes time for the forenoon and in his estimates for the next fiscal year asks for some increases necessary to bring the office up to a proper efficiency, and that such necessary increases will be recommended by the Commissioners and granted by Congress seems reasonable to expect. Citizens should not have to spend an unreasonable time in paying their taxes, and the records relating to such payments and to District real estate should always be kept current. The District will fully indorse necessary expenditures for these ends.

Japan's consent as well as that of the nations of Europe must be obtained before the United States can act as mediator in the Chinese difficulty. For a country that was not popularly considered a few years ago, except as a source of ingenious comic opera plots, Japan is claiming and commanding a remarkable share of deference.

Admiral Dewey Replies.

Admiral Dewey objects to being held up to execution on the authority of a Filipino chief of whom he knows nothing. He manifests a pardonable desire to have his countrymen consider him both an honest and a fairly intelligent man. He asserts that the witness whom Senator Pettigrew has just introduced to prove the contrary is a worthy of credit. Why should he have promised a few Filipino adventures in hiding at Hong Kong the independence of the Philippine archipelago when they had no authority to demand such terms and he none to grant them? He was in full possession of his faculties at the time, as is evidenced by the arrangements he made for one of the most brilliant achievements of the war.

But, as earnestly as he may protest, Admiral Dewey cannot expect to free himself from these charges and others like them while the national campaign is in progress. The anti-imperialist propaganda rests very largely upon him. The most aggressive of those who are fighting the administrative on the Philippine question are not those who have simply that a mistake was made, but those who insist that a crime was committed. The allegation that such men as that American officials, both civil and military, deliberately betrayed the Philippines; entered into terms with them for

assistance against the Spaniards, received that assistance, which was a fact, by American success on shore at Manila, and then turned upon their allies, provoked war with them and began a bloody extermination of the race.

This is the charge, and included in it the President himself. The men who make it scorn the criticism that the islands were taken over at a time when the whole matter of American duty was beyond doubt. Their criticism is that the affair was racially and irretrievably from the outset. The President and his advisers had conquest in mind, and shaped their course both at Manila and at Paris with that end in view. Admiral Dewey and General Otis at their station played their parts in the game as unscrupulously as the peace commissioners did theirs at their station. Last, but not least, was loot! The only consideration was loot, and the betrayal of allies was a necessary, and easily executed, feature of the program.

Admiral Dewey exhibits the sensitiveness of a man unused to the turmoil of politics. But, of course, his reputation will not suffer. The country asked to choose between him and the man who was to be the chief of the expedition, and he chose Dewey. There are no votes in the effort to exalt Aguinaldo and his gang at the expense of those who have shed upon American valor a new and a lasting credit.

Phases of China's Appeal.

While it is just not the best policy on the part of the United States, and, indeed, on the part of all the powers, to take China at her word and to give her credit for an honest desire to preserve the peace, there is something amusing to the western mind in the wording of the Chinese emperor's appeal to this country for mediation. Naturally, the government at Peking, proposing this maneuver, sought to make out a good case for itself. Consequently it pleaded the limit of credulity and a little beyond; for instance, when it declared that "recent outbreaks of mutual animosity between the people and the Christian missions caused the foreign powers to view with unwarrantable suspicion the position of the imperial government, as favorable to the people and prejudicial to the missions." The spectacle of the missionaries in China, engaging in a conflict with the people of their own accord would be ludicrous were not the case now so desperately serious. The "antipathy" of the missionary to the Boxer was aroused only when the latter, with murder in his heart, hunted the Christian with a devilish persistence and cruelty.

Again, it could occur only to an oriental mind to declare it to be highly gratifying "to learn that the United States government, having in view the friendly relations between the two countries, has taken a deep interest in the present situation." The message neglects to suggest that perhaps our "interest" may have been aroused by the fact that our own minister and his suite and proteges have for some weeks been under siege in the capital of the country, that the world has been shocked repeatedly by persistent details of the tortuous death of all the whites in Peking, and that it has been virtually impossible to obtain the least direct information regarding the true state of case. It requires no comity to cause the United States to regard the situation with concern. Nor does it require euphemism on the part of China to express the case without offending our sensibilities. Doubtless, however, the habit of circuitous expression, of avoidance of direct statement, of the Chinese, of the celestial mind, has been too strong even in this great emergency to permit a frank avowal of the reasons why the United States is now an intensely interested party.

Now for a Crow Crusade.

The dog question having settled itself without a disruption of local society, the chief of police is entitled to commiseration for his latest embarrassment, caused by the mutilation of a crow. The loud-cawing crows in the trees in Franklin Square. This hard-worked official has surely been sufficiently distressed throughout the winter by the public dread of rabies to have earned a vacation. Yet if the protests against the crows continue in their present insistence it is to be feared he will have a hard summer. The crows are doubtless a nuisance. Their voices are not those of the canary or the nightingale. Their manners are atrocious, their tempers abominable. Their regularity of habit, too, makes them decidedly objectionable when they take a fancy to a certain resting place as they fly back and forth from nests to feeding grounds. And so the public sympathies belong to those residents who have been annoyed of morning by these black-coated disturbers. Maj. Sylvester, in that conscientious pursuit of duty which has marked his entire career as a police official, may now be expected to organize a raid on the crows. His resources of invention are such as to warrant the belief that he will organize a corps of crow-catchers, quite as efficient as the bicycle police. Doubtless Col. Bingham will lend the services of his own splendid corps of park policemen, whose police work suggests the basis for an evolution. Climbing ladders, blunderbusses and balloons and some old-fashioned bird-time may be needed for this new campaign. The crow is a wily bird, hard to deceive and equally hard to approach. But he is shrewd and readily appreciates the force of a sufficient amount of hint. His presence is undesirable. The chief difficulty in this case, and about this affair is that as the crows are driven from Franklin Square they are likely to choose some other park and thus only transfer the annoyance. Hence the police department is confronted with an ornithological phase of the always perplexing tramp problem of how best to keep unwelcome visitors moving on.

The Guard in Camp.

All accounts of the annual encampment of the District National Guard at Gathersburg indicate that the organization has entirely recovered from the demoralizing effects of the Spanish war, which called for a partial suspension of its activities for a solid basis of readiness for any war. It is stripped of the useless features which formerly pertained to the citizen soldiery, and which detracted from its real usefulness in time of emergency. The work of reconstruction since the war has been well done. This camp shows a compact body of men, thoroughly alive to the real duties of the militiaman and eager to avail themselves of the opportunities for improvement through such means as the encampment affords.

By his prompt action at Kansas City David B. Hill spared himself the necessity of turning his back on the eastern democrats in order to keep the populists amused.

The Guard in Camp.

The people who believe that millionaires are all proud and haughty people should watch Mr. Astor groveling in London.

No candidate was ever more completely "in the hands of his friends" than Mr. Charles A. Towne.

An Acute Attack of Cyclomania.

A woman has just finished riding 1,500 miles on a bicycle near New York city in the phenomenal time of 154 hours and 49 minutes. She was impelled to do this by the performance of another woman, who recently rode 1,000 miles in record time. Now it is expected that some other woman, or perhaps one of these, will ride 2,000 miles consecutively in the fastest time yet recorded, and so the race will go on until probably some misguided woman kills herself. The country is mad. It was hoped that this century-rider madness would spend itself, the utter folly of it having been apparent through the occasional collapse

of a record-chaser. But seemingly there is disposition now to revive the chase by appealing to the public love of novelty. It is not hard to trace the real inspiring cause, for it is revealed in the case of this latest woman record-breaker, who received \$250 and a new bicycle from a firm of wheel makers, eager for advertisement. This pernicious method of making known the merits or the claims of the various styles of bicycles has much to answer for already, and if the business continues at its present rate it will add heavily to its record of mischief before the present season is over. The use of the bicycle has in general settled down to a rational basis. The varieties of wheels are now so nearly alike in fundamental features that the day of excited discussions over styles and makes is nearly over. This is a hopeful sign, for it shows that in general the public has come to accept the bicycle as a standard aid to locomotion, and not as a toy or a means of achieving freak records. It may be that these pernicious performances in the vicinity of New York will prove the last sign of the evil tendencies of wheel use. Assuredly they are calculated to hasten the reaction in the public mind in favor of a restriction of the bicycle to its legitimate purpose and to arouse a public movement to prevent these unseemly and cruel displays of muscular endurance.

Some cities are comparing notes to determine which was hottest during the recent warm season. Washington has no desire to revive great heat and will yield the palm without a struggle.

The report that China bought over 400,000 rifles in Germany last year may cause Emperor William to feel that the country's exports need more editing.

James Hamilton Lewis has too much candor to make any of these pretenses about being anxious to retire from politics.

Count Castellane has really wounded a man in a duel. Now let audacious creditors beware.

SHOOTING STARS.

An Irreverent Comment.

"Did you get my letter asking you to be present when I deliver my speech?" asked Senator Sorghum.

"Yes, I told my friend Noxly that I expected to be there."

"What did he say?"

"He simply remarked that he was tired of listening to my hard-luck stories."

The Revengful Citizen.

I ask myself, when vapors thick oppress the simmering soul, Am I the man who used to kick about the price of coal?

I oft complained with many a sigh When winter chilled the earth, Were winter now on sale I'd buy A hundred dollars worth!

Conclusive Proof.

"Some of these Chinamen are exceedingly intelligent people."

"I never doubted it," answered the youth with the abnormally high collar. "I always did take off my hat to any man who could read the things that are written on the laundry tickets and firecracker packages."

Precise, but Disagreeable.

"You have traveled abroad?" inquired the well-meaning conversationalist. And the man who worries about words answered stiffly:

"Possibly you will inform me of some way in which I could have been abroad without traveling."

Her Wish.

"If I had it to do over again," remarked the tired-looking woman in the grocery store, "I think I'd marry a chef."

"Are you so great an expert?"

"No; but it would be a comfort to do the complaining myself about the marketing and the management of the kitchen."

Not a Candidate.

To worry by day

A watchful voters, small an' great, Fur fear they'll get away;

An' shakin' hands with every one, An' never happenin' to meet,

An' never havin' any fun, Except to talk an' eat!

When 'Mandy looks me now and then, I murmur, 'What's the use?'

'Tain't much compared to what those men Receive in round about."

If they should print such things of me, Before the public, I'd be glad to see 'em, I'd get 'em and I couldn't see,

An' go somewhere an' die!

I love my country strong an' true, But I am blessed with no brains,

Could ever see a campaign through, No matter how I'd try.

An' when their eager work I scan, I say, an' mean it straight,

It takes a mighty nerry man To be a candidate.

The Emperor Sears.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

The republic is in danger and Bryan alone can save it. Our form of government is in the direst peril. An emperor paid as on a throne at Washington should the cause of the emperor's fall be down in disaster. And four years hence what? Some new brand of calamity will be invented by the emperor and the people will be frayed at the edges. It will have been more or less reverently interred beside free silver as a calamity that would not work. However, sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

May Develop a Hot Box.

From the Boston Globe.

How (name Paul) Revere looks on his famous ride compared with your modern Vanderbilt, speeding over the roads of Massachusetts with a French automobile at a rapid pace, followed by a huge cloud of dust.

It is said that Vanderbilt has notified the police of Newport that they may arrest him as often as they choose and he is prepared to pay the fines. Why should not rich men have the privilege of breaking the law as much as he wishes if he is willing to pay for it?

But then the lawmakers may think differently by and by and append the judicial opinion of thirty days in jail to the fine. Vanderbilt's fast automobile may then be suddenly seized with a "hot box."

Our Soldiers—No Looting.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

They talk in England and elsewhere a good deal about the discipline of European armies. But in Tien Tsin the only soldiers who held to the high standard of army discipline were the Americans and Japanese. Our boys in blue fought as well as the English or Russians or Germans, but when the fighting was over they did not forget that they were soldiers and gentlemen. They did no looting.

The Silver Issue.

From the Indianapolis News.

The democratic platform subordinates the financial to the imperialistic issue, which is declared to be "paramount." But issues cannot be made in this way. It will be enough for the good people to know that the democratic party has chosen to follow the old leader; that it has reaffirmed the old platform; that it has reiterated the most dangerous and disturbing principle of that platform. If this declaration had not been regarded as important, Mr. Bryan and his friends would not have insisted that it be made, nor would the other side have opposed it. There can be no doubt that it is the main thing in Mr. Bryan's mind.

Formaldehyde in Milk.

From the Indianapolis Press.

Physicians declare that the effects of the formaldehyde in milk is kept in the system, and in the highest degree evil, poisoning children and creating conditions of the digestive organs from which they may never entirely recover. In cases where the drug does not cause more immediate evil. The effect on adults is bad, but for infants, its use is terrible.

The Appetite Lags

"Now good digestion wait on appetite And health on both."

—when there's little temptation to eat. You will always have an appetite for

Corby's Mother's Bread.

Its very deliciousness stimulates the appetite. Always uniformly fresh and wholesome. There's nothing better for the children—there is nothing better for the grown folks.

Contains 20% more gluten than any other bread baked. Sold by all grocers. 5c. a loaf.

CORBY'S Modern Bakery, 2335 Brightwood Ave.

Clearing Sale of GAS Stoves and Ranges.

Genuine bargains in Gas Stoves and Ranges to clear up the stock—as we do not wish to carry it over the winter.

W. J. Hutchinson, 520 10th

24 BOTTLES ONLY \$1.25.

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